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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Letter dated 12 October 1994 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon the instruction of my Government, I have the honour to solemnly state China's position as follows:

1. During the just-ended general debate of the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly, representatives of a small number of countries, in disregard of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the basic principles of international law, as well as the strong opposition of the Chinese Government and people, distorted and misused the principle of "universality of membership" in their speeches, openly peddled the so-called question of Taiwan's "representation" in the United Nations and trumpeted "two Chinas", "one China, one Taiwan" and "one country, two seats". I hereby seriously point out that the above remarks are completely erroneous and intolerable to the Chinese Government and the entire 1.2 billion Chinese people, including their compatriots in Taiwan. The Chinese Government and people cannot but express their utmost indignation at and firm opposition to such acts, which seriously infringe upon China's sovereignty and territorial integrity, grossly interfere in China's internal affairs and gravely violate the purposes and principles of the Charter as well as the relevant resolution of the General Assembly.

2. Resolution 2758 (XXVI), adopted with an overwhelming majority by the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session on 25 October 1971, states in unequivocal and unmistakable terms that "the representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China are the only lawful representatives of China to the United Nations". The resolution decided to restore all the lawful rights of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations and to expel forthwith the representatives of the Taiwan authorities from the United Nations and all of its relevant agencies, thus settling once and for all the question of China's representation in the United Nations, politically, legally and procedurally.

There exists no question at all of the so-called Taiwan's "participation" and "Taiwan's representation" in the United Nations.

3. The United Nations is an international organization composed of sovereign States. Article 4 of the Charter of the United Nations stipulates in explicit terms that only sovereign States are entitled to membership in the United Nations. There is only one China in the world, which is the People's Republic of China, and Taiwan is an inalienable part of the Chinese territory. This has long been recognized and affirmed by 159 countries and such international organizations as the United Nations. The Taiwan authorities have also expressed their firm stand for "one China" as opposed to "two Chinas" and "one China, one Taiwan" in their recently issued White Paper on Cross-Strait Relations. It is obvious that Taiwan, as a province of China, has no right whatsoever to be a member of the United Nations, and, therefore, the principle of "universality of membership" does not apply in this case. The attempt to use this principle applicable only to sovereign States as an argument for Taiwan "joining the United Nations" is, in essence, a distortion and violation of the purposes and principles of the Charter as well as its relevant provisions. And it is more absurd and legally unfounded to cite the model of "parallel representation" in the United Nations by former East and West Germany and by North and South Korea as an argument for Taiwan "joining the United Nations". The question of Taiwan is different in nature from that of Germany and Korea, therefore they cannot be put on the same footing. This is a fact widely recognized by the international community. Those who attempt to use it as an argument for Taiwan "joining the United Nations" either are ignorant of the historical facts and blind to realities or have ulterior political motives.

4. The question of Taiwan is purely an internal affair of China and no country has the right to interfere. To raise the question of Taiwan's "representation" in the United Nations under whatever pretext or in whatever manner is aimed at splitting China and creating "two Chinas", "one China, one Taiwan" and "one China, two Governments" and constitutes an illegal act which seriously infringes upon China's sovereignty and wantonly interferes in its internal affairs. This is naturally rejected by the Chinese Government and the entire 1.2 billion Chinese people, including their compatriots in Taiwan. China has all along pursued an independent foreign policy of peace, observed the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and adhered to the five principles of mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence. It has been actively promoting friendly relations and cooperation with countries in the world, and contributing its share to the maintenance of world peace and the promotion of development. China never harms the interest of other countries or interferes in their internal affairs. Likewise, we are opposed to other countries' interference in China's internal affairs, including the question of Taiwan. To consider the question of Taiwan at the United Nations in whatever manner constitutes an interference in China's internal affairs, which we firmly oppose. The Chinese Government and people are capable of safeguarding their sovereignty and territorial integrity, and can accomplish their noble cause of national reunification in accordance with the basic policy of "one country, two systems". The attempt by the Taiwan authorities to win over a small number of countries by their "dollar diplomacy" and make them trumpet Taiwan's "return" to the United

Nations is totally going against the common aspiration of the entire 1.2 billion Chinese people and is therefore doomed to failure.

5. The forty-ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly and its General Committee once again categorically rejected without vote the request for inclusion of the so-called question of Taiwan's "representation" on the agenda of the current session of the General Assembly. This reflects the will of the overwhelming majority of the States Members of the United Nations and proves eloquently the unpopularity of the acts of this small number of countries which run counter to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations as well as the relevant General Assembly resolution. It is our hope that these countries will see through the plot of the Taiwan authorities, adhere to the purposes and principles of the Charter as well as the relevant General Assembly resolution and refrain from doing anything that is not in the long-term interest of their own countries and peoples and detrimental to the fundamental interest of the Chinese people as well.

I would be grateful if Your Excellency could have the present letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under item 49.

(Signed) LI Zhaoxing
Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary and Permanent
Representative of the People's
Republic of China to the United Nations